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ABSTRACT

This annotated directory of existing databases, both online and print, is designed to assist in identifying available technology products for use in special education. The first section describes eight commercial software products with a special education focus, such as the "Closing the Gap Resource Directory" and "Software To Go." The second section lists five commercial software products with a regular education focus, such as "Only the Best" and the "Software Preview Guide." The third section lists five databases that contain public domain software and have a special education focus, including "Software for Special Populations" and "Tell'em Ware." The database descriptions in these three sections indicate the name and address of the producing organization, populations targeted by the database, cost for using the database, and access to the database, and include a paragraph-length description. The last section lists five newsletters and journals that contain evaluative reviews of software, such as "The Computing Teacher" and "Special Education Software Review." (JDD)

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Center for Special Education Technology
The Council for Exceptional Children
1920 Association Drive
Reston, Virginia 22091
703/620-3660
800/873-8255

Center for Special Education Technology

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Preface

The Center for Special Education Technology at The Council for Exceptional Children is a national information center funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The Center's broad goals are to influence the quality, availability, and use of technology in special education through information. To that end, the Center provides a range of information services and activities for educators, developers, and publishers.

In response to expressed information needs, the Center has compiled this annotated directory of existing databases, both on-line and print, to assist you in identifying available products. This directory contains a level of detail not currently found in other directories and frequently not described in general database descriptions from the database source. The purpose for attending to this level of detail is to assist you in locating the data source that best meets your information needs, making your search for software information more efficient and effective.

The software databases are organized with commercial software in the first and second sections. Those databases with a special education focus are listed first, followed by those used in regular education. Much of the software used in regular education can be used for special education if it is modified. For example, a structured worksheet might outline steps in working with the software. Section III lists software databases that contain public domain software and have a special education focus. The databases listed in this directory are not intended to be all inclusive, but should give a starting point for selecting appropriate instructional software.

The last section lists newsletters and journals that contain reviews of software. These reviews contain a rating or an evaluation of the software pieces, as well as having a special education orientation.

This annotated directory is one software information product that has been developed by the Center. Other products developed that are currently available from the Center are:

Tech Use Guides Using Computer Technology Series:

- Selecting Software
- Learning Disabilities
- Hearing Impairments
- Visual Impairments

Readers of this directory are urged to look for additional resources in their own state. Also, your school district may have a directory of instructional software.

Section I

Commercial Software with Special Education Focus

Name of Database:	**Apple Computer, Inc. SOLUTIONS**
Name of Organization:	Apple Computer, Inc. Worldwide Disability Solutions Group
Address:	20525 Mariani Avenue, MS 36SE Cupertino, CA 95014
Telephone:	408/974-7910 or 408/974-7911 (TDD)

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 250

Other database entries: Assistive devices/hardware, utility/tool software

Population(s) targeted by the database: All

Information provided by the database:

Title
Description of content
Publisher's name and address
Subject area

Software has been reviewed: No

Cost for using the database: Free with the exception of on-line telephone charges.

How the database is accessed: (1) through Applelink, an Apple administered network, provided free on the Explorer CD-ROM disk that comes with each Apple CD-ROM player, (2) through SpecialNet, (3) through a Hypercard-based database. All are custom searchable. Documentation and help screens are provided.

Description:

Apple Computer, Inc. SOLUTIONS is an on-line database of resources available to disabled users of Apple computers. Maintained by Apple's Worldwide Disability Solutions Group, it currently contains over 1,000 entries describing adaptive devices, specialized software, support organizations, and publications. New entries are added regularly. The entire SOLUTIONS database is on Applelink, Apple's own international telecommunications network. Because Applelink is available at every authorized Apple dealership, anyone can have access to information. SOLUTIONS is also available via SpecialNet, as a Hypercard Stack.

SOLUTIONS is also available in a print format. See page 4 for more information.

Name of Database: **Apple Computer Resources in Special Education and Rehabilitation**

Name of Organization: DLM/Teaching Resources, Inc.

Address: One DLM Park
Allen, TX 75002

Telephone: 800/527-4747

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 250

Other database entries: Assistive devices/hardware, utility/tool software

Population(s) targeted by the database: All

Information provided by the database:

Title
Description of content
Publisher's name and address
Subject area

Software has been reviewed: No

Cost for using the database: $19.95

How the database is accessed: This database is in a print format.

Description:

This print resource contains information that can be easily accessed to answer questions about hardware add-ons, specialized software, organizations, and publications that support computer users with disabilities. The book contains over 400 pages of information describing more than 1,000 hardware and software products, publications, and organizations all designed to help the child or adult with disabilities take advantage of the power of computing. Application areas covered are education, vocation, recreation, and activities of daily living.

The Apple Computer Resources in Special Education and Rehabilitation is also available in a non-print format. See page 3 for more information.

Name of Database: **Closing the Gap Resource Directory**

Name of Organization: Closing the Gap, Inc.

Address: P.O. Box 68
Henderson, MN 56044

Telephone: 612/248-3294

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 800-900

Other database entries: Assistive devices/hardware, organizations, and producers

Population(s) targeted by the database: All

Information provided by the database:

Title
Cost
System requirements
Type of software
Specific academic skills
Skill levels
Computer
Disability
Publisher/manufacturer
Description of content

Software has been reviewed: No

Cost for using the database: $12.95, plus $2 postage

How the database is accessed: This database is in a print format.

Description:

The Closing the Gap Resource Directory presents technology information that can begin the process of providing persons with disabilities access to the microcomputer and related technology. Individuals can use the directory as a road map for development and implementation of this technology. The directory is organized into seven sections: software matrix, software descriptions, hardware matrix, hardware descriptions, software and hardware producers, organizations matrix, and glossary of terms.

Name of Database: **CTG Solutions**

Name of Organization: Closing The Gap, Inc.

Address: P.O. Box 68
Henderson, MN 56044

Telephone: 612/248-3294

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 800

Other database entries: Assistive devices/hardware, organizations, and producers

Population(s) targeted by the database: All

Information provided by the database:

Title
Disability
Academic skill
Skill level
Computer brand
Peripheral requirements
Special skill
Publisher's mailing address and phone
Cost
Description of content
Keywords (dictionary of terms provided)
Product brand name

Software has been reviewed: No

Cost for using the database: Annual license fee is $975.00, including quarterly updates.

How the database is accessed: The database is Macintosh-based. Searches are individually conducted by the subscriber. Documentation for conducting searches is provided.

Description:

CTG Solutions is a relational database containing information about microcomputer technology and persons with special needs. The database also allows for local customization so that local information relating to student/client activities, administrative considerations, product acquisition, inventory, and training activities can all be linked to the existing product information. It contains information in four major areas: producers of materials, hardware devices, organizations, and applications. This database not only provides up-to-date information on products, but more importantly, instructions on how to use those products. It is a tool for special education and rehabilitation professionals that allows them to concentrate on delivering service, not researching applications.

Name of Database: **Educational Software Resource List**

Name of Organization: The Carroll Center for the Blind

Address: 770 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02158

Telephone: 617/969-6200

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 120
Other database entries: Hardware devices

Population(s) targeted by the database: Blind, visually impaired

Information provided by the database:

Title
Cost
Computer
Grade level
Publisher's name, address, and phone
Description of content

Software has been reviewed: No

Cost for using the database: $10

How the database is accessed: This database is in a print format.

Description:

This print database contains a listing of over 120 software products for blind and visually impaired computer users, a glossary of computer terminology, and a vendor directory. Information on hardware as well as software is included. They also publish a review of assistive devices for use by persons who are visually impaired or blind.

Name of Database: **1991 Innotek Software Resource Guide**

Name of Organization: National Lekotek Center

Address: 2100 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201

Telephone: 708/328-0001

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 199

Population(s) targeted by the database: Mental, physical, behavioral, sensory, or learning impaired, and gifted

Information provided by the database:

Title
Publisher
Type of software
Subject area
Rating
Grade level
Cost
Hardware
Peripherals
Description of content
Exceptionality
Sound
Graphics
Animation
Teacher options
Record keeping
Backup
Teacher edition

Software has been reviewed: Yes

Cost for using the database: $20, plus $3.50 postage

How the database is accessed: This database is in a print format.

Description:

This is a guide for selecting software for children with special needs. The guide is updated yearly and includes software programs that have been used successfully with children ranging in age from 2 to 14 years. The software is appropriate for children with mental, physical, behavioral, sensory, or learning impairments, and includes suggestions for working with gifted children. Each program has been reviewed in terms of learning value, child appeal, ease of use, and flexibility. Separate listings of software companies, peripherals, and adaptive equipment resources are included.

Name of Database: **Software To Go**

Name of Organization: Pre-College Programs
Gallaudet University

Address: 800 Florida Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002

Telephone: 202/651-5705

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 800

Population(s) targeted by the database: Hard of hearing or deaf

Information provided by the database:

Title
Publisher
Computer brand
Cost
Subject area
Grade level
Description of content
Recommendation for hearing impaired
Reviews from general education
Contents of software package
Comments

Software has been reviewed: Yes

Cost for using the database: $50 per year for membership

How the database is accessed: Requesters should call the project coordinator who will search the database.

Description:

The database contains information on 800 instructional software pieces. The commercially-produced software is designed for the Apple II family and IBM PC, XT, and compatibles. Participating institutions evaluate the software for use with people who are hard of hearing or deaf. A software lending library of microcomputer software for schools and programs concerned with the education of deaf students is also available. Yearly membership includes this lending library service and all STG publications.

Name of Database: **Special Times**

Name of Organization: Cambridge Development Laboratory

Address: 214 3rd Avenue
Waltham, MA 02154

Telephone: 800/637-0047

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 300

Population(s) targeted by the database: Learning disabled

Information provided by the database:

Title
Grade level
Description of content
Computer brand
Cost

Software has been reviewed: Yes

Cost for using the database: Free

How the database is accessed: Write or call after selecting from the catalog.

Description:

This is a catalog of software for students with learning disabilities (LD). A reviewer's panel recommends those programs suitable for use with LD students. Software that contains interesting and meaningful content and encourages students to think for themselves, solve problems, and make decisions is considered for inclusion. Educators can obtain help in selecting appropriate software for LD students by calling the 800 number.

Section II

Commercial Software with Regular Education Focus

Name of Database: **The 1990 Educational Software Preview Guide**

Name of Organization: ISTE Publications (International Society for Technology in Education)

Address: University of Oregon
1787 Agate Street
Eugene, OR 97403

Telephone: 503/346-4414

Number of Products:
Instructional software: 750

Population(s) targeted by the database: Regular education

Information provided by the database:
Title
Publisher's name, address, and phone
Grade level
Description of content
Computer brand
Subject area
Type of software
Cost

Software has been reviewed: Yes

Cost for using the database: $13.25

How the database is accessed: You can phone or write for a print copy.

Description:

This annual preview guide lists software that has been favorably reviewed by the Educational Software Evaluation Consortium. The consortium is a group of sites across North America which rank the software they have evaluated. It is intended to help educators locate programs they want to preview. Also included are several articles on software.

The Educational Software Preview Guide is also available in a HyperCard stack. See page 18 for more information.

Name of Database: **Only the Best**

Name of Organization: Education News Service

Address: R. R. Bowker, Order Department
P.O. Box 762
New York, NY 10011

Telephone: 800/521-8110

Number of Products:
Instructional software: 231

Population(s) targeted by the database: Regular education

Information provided by the database:
Title
Publisher's name, address, and phone
Hardware requirements
Cost
Subject area
Grade level
Type of software
Description of content
Tips
Evaluation conclusions
Magazine reviews

Software has been reviewed: Yes

Cost for using the database: $26.95

How the database is accessed: You can phone or write for a print copy.

Description:

This is an annual reference guide to highly rated education software. It is directed to computer coordinators, curriculum directors, teachers, school administrators, students, librarians, and parents. Evaluation of 6,000 programs by 35 editors and researchers produced the list of 185 "highest" rated and 46 "excellent" rated software pieces.

Name of Database: PC-TESS

Name of Organization: EPIE Institute

Address: P.O. Box 839
Water Mill, NY 11976

Telephone: 516/283-4922

Number of Products:

Instructional software: Over 10,000

Population(s) targeted by the database: Regular education

Information provided by the database:

Title
Publisher's name, address, and phone
Grade level
Description of content
Computer brand
Suitability for group or individual use
Cost
Evaluation, if available

Software has been reviewed: Some of the software has been reviewed

Cost for using the database: $66.95

How the database is accessed: This database is in a print format. You can phone or write for a copy. Software may be located by the title of the software or by computer brand.

Description:

PC-TESS provides detailed information that allows users to locate products. It covers virtually all educational software, representing every subject and educational level; all microcomputers commonly used in homes and schools; all education software types; and information on over 900 software publishers. It includes over 10,000 educational software program descriptions. This information was previously available as an on-line database. It now consists of a 1986 and a 1988 edition as a print resource. (This database is available to schools in an electronic format. Call EPIE Institute for details.)

Name of Database: **Software Preview Guide**

Name of Organization: CUE (Computer Using Educators) Softswap

Address: P.O. Box 271704
Concord, CA 94527-1704

Telephone: 415/685-7289

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 400

Population(s) targeted by the database: Regular education

Information provided by the database:

Title
Description of content
Publisher
Cost
Computer
Subjects
Instructional Mode
Grade level

Software has been reviewed: Yes

Cost for using the database: $11

How the database is accessed: You can order a 3 1/2" disk HyperCard stack from CUE Softswap. A Macintosh computer with HyperCard and at least one megabyte of memory is required.

Description:

This database is a HyperCard stack of educational software. Curriculum experts and computer coordinators from 12 states have recommended for preview new software and re-evaluated older software. Software can be searched by topic, title, and publisher and sorted by title, publisher, and price.

The Educational Software Preview Guide is also available in a print format. The print format is an updated version. See the 1990 Educational Software Preview Guide entry on page 15 for more information.

Name of Database: **Survey of Early Childhood Software**

Name of Organization: High/Scope Educational Research Foundation

Address: The High/Scope Press
600 North River Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Telephone: 313/485-2000

Number of Products:
Instructional software: 435

Population(s) targeted by the database: Early childhood regular education

Information provided by the database:
Title
Publisher
Date
Price
Age
Computer brand
Conceptional area
Final rating
User friendliness
Educational value
Instructional design
Comments
Photo of sample screen

Software has been reviewed: Yes

Cost for using the database: $19.95

How the database is accessed: You can phone or write for a print copy.

Description:

This is a review of software programs for children ages 3 to 6. It is directed to teachers and parents. The software evaluation process involved children and teachers in the High/Scope demonstration classroom. A chapter in the book interprets the software descriptions and another describes the evaluation process. Software listings under conceptual area, topic, and computer brand are included.

Section III

Public Domain Software with Special Education Focus

Name of Database: **Colorado Easter Seal Society Database**

Name of Organization: Colorado Easter Seal Society

Address: 5755 W. Alameda
Lakewood, CO 80226

Telephone: 303/233-1666

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 200 public domain programs

Population(s) targeted by the database: All

Information provided by the database:

Title
Programs on disk
Peripherals
Comments
Grade level
Disability

Software has been reviewed: Yes

Cost for using the database: $5 for the disk, $10 for a printout

How the database is accessed: Disks are distributed to those who request them. AppleWorks is required for disk use. A print copy is also available upon request.

Description:

This AppleWorks database contains all of the Center for Adapted Technology's Apple public domain software. Ratings from excellent to poor give a general guide to the software. The database is updated periodically; the last update was October 1989. Software listed in this database can be ordered through this organization.

Name of Database: **Public Domain Catalog**

Name of Organization: Kentucky Special Education Technology Training Center

Address: c/o Margaret Shuping or Marie Keel
Department of Special Education
229 Taylor Education Building
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0001

Telephone: 606/257-4713

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 85 public domain programs for MS-DOS
225 public domain programs for Apple II
600 public domain programs for Mac

Population(s) targeted by the database: all

Information provided by the database:

Title
Subject
Instructions
Description of content

Software has been reviewed: yes

Cost for using the database: $3.00 for the MS-DOS catalog
$4.00 for the Apple catalog
$5.00 for the Mac catalog

How the database is accessed: This database is in a print format. The requestor should call or write to order the catalogs.

Description:

Three catalogs of public domain programs are available: MS-DOS, Apple II, and Apple Macintosh. Each program listed has been reviewed to make sure they boot and run. Disks of listed software may be ordered as follows: MS-DOS 5 1/4" disks are $3.00 or 3.5" disks are $5.00; Apple II disks are $3.00; Mac disks are $5.00.

Name of Database: **Software for Special Populations**

Name of Organization: Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System – South (FDLRS – South)

Address: 5555 S.W. 93rd Avenue
Miami, FL 33165

Telephone: 305/274-3501

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 1,000 public domain programs

Population(s) targeted by the database: All

Information provided by the database:

Title
Publisher
Computer brand
Disability
Grade level

Software has been reviewed: Yes

Cost for using the database: Free

How the database is accessed: Call 305/274-3501 and request a search. A print copy will be sent to you.

Description:

Special education personnel evaluate software for use with children and adults having hearing, visual, physical, mental, or learning disabilities. This center is part of a nationwide information exchange network which offers support for special educators, other professionals, community agencies, parents, and others who work with exceptional children and youth.

Name of Database: **Special Education Public Domain Software**

Name of Organization: Technology for Language and Learning

Address: P. O. Box 327
East Rockaway, NY 11518-0327

Telephone: 516/625-4550

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 300 public domain programs

Population(s) targeted by the database: All

Information provided by the database:

Title
Description of content
Instructional area
Input/output device
Cost

Software has been reviewed: Yes

Cost for using the database: $10 for the catalog

How the database is accessed: The requestor should call or write to order the catalog.

Description:

This catalog contains Apple public domain programs for education, special education, and recreational use. The programs have been tested for appropriateness and adaptability to persons with special needs. The programs have been improved and debugged when necessary. Instructions and main menus have been added. The emphasis is on software programs to assist children and adults with langı age and learning problems. Programs are appropriate for individuals who have language disorders, aphasia, learning problems, visual impairments, and physical disabilities. The software programs are available for $5 and $10 per disk.

Name of Database: **Tell'em Ware**

Name of Organization: Tell'em Ware

Address: 1714 Olson Way
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Telephone: 515/752-9667

Number of Products:

Instructional software: 328 public domain disks

Population(s) targeted by the database: All

Information provided by the database:

Title
Description of content
List of peripherals supported

Software has been reviewed: No

Cost for using the database: $6.50 to purchase the Appleworks database or $7.50 to purchase the print catalog of the database.

How the database is accessed: AppleWorks is required for disk use. The database is self-searchable. A print copy is also available upon request.

Description:

This is an AppleWorks database available on disk or as a print catalog. An additional database called "The Address Files," which contains commercial programs orientated to the special needs learner, is available for $39.95. Both of these databases will be available on a Macintosh computer disk in Fall 1990.

Section IV

Resources for Software Reviews

The Catalyst
Western Center for Microcomputers in Special Education, Inc.
1259 El Camino Real, Suite 275
Menlo Park, CA 94025

This is a newsletter which covers microcomputer use in the fields of special education and rehabilitation. Software reviews, as well as new products, are features of each quarterly issue.

The Computing Teacher
University of Oregon
1787 Agate Street
Eugene, OR 97403

This journal, published by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), is for people interested in the instructional use of computers. It emphasizes teaching about computers, computer applications, teacher education, and the impact of computers on curriculum. Each month software is reviewed with a comprehensive description of the content and the reviewer's comments on strengths and weaknesses. Another section describes new software releases.

ConnSENSE Bulletin
University of Connecticut
Special Education Center Technology Lab
249 Glenbrook Road, U-64
Storrs, CT 06269-2064

This is Connecticut's Special Education Network for software evaluation. A section on software reviews describes the piece of software, rates it, and comments on its strengths and weaknesses.

Journal of Reading, Writing, and Learning Disabilities
Hemisphere Publishing Corporation
79 Madison Avenue, Suite 1110
New York, New York 10016-7892

This journal contains papers of interest to educators working in the field of reading, writing, and learning disabilities. It has a section on *What's New in Software?* which gives technology applications to the topic selected for the issue. It usually contains selected annotated examples of software.

Special Education Software Review
Drive One Publishers, LTD.
3807 N. Northwood Ave.
Peoria, IL 61614

Special Education Software Review is a newsletter written by special educators and assists in selection of quality computer software for persons with handicaps. It reviews math, language arts, logic and reasoning, early childhood, and administrative management software. It also provides information to custom fit software to particular classroom or office needs.